

## The Suffering Servant - Part 1

*Isa 53:4-6* <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

If you had been alive at the time when Jesus was upon the earth and was one of those eagerly expecting the coming Messiah what would have you been looking for or anticipating? What would you be thinking that the Messiah should be like? How would He come? Exactly what would have you expected Him to do? Especially, when the prevailing teaching of the day, would have been about a king who would arrive with extraordinary worldly attributes and who would establish a glorious majestic earthly kingdom. Do you think you would have walked away from the cross that day with the same mindset of great disappointment as those two disciples as they walked to Emmaus? Do you think that you might have also answered in the same way? Well, this one that we were hoping was the one who would to redeem Israel was crucified and buried and now some of the women who were with us found His tomb empty and they were told that He is alive, but none of us have seen Him.

But think of how they went from the depths of despair to great joy, when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. I cannot help but to believe that part of the great Bible study took included teaching from this 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Isaiah. How Peter went from denying our Lord to proclaiming, this Jesus whom you crucified God has raised from the dead. And in His name alone is salvation to be found. Truly that is the gospel message that reveals to us how Jesus takes us from the depths of despair to the glories of the resurrection. And how wonderfully this gospel message is recorded for us by Isaiah. And now as we begin to consider verses 4 through 6 of Isaiah I want us to note how the comfort and hope of the crucifixion is found in the words of the prophet. I want us to consider what Isaiah reveals to us under these headings. 1. What Jesus Did; 2. How sinful man looks upon Jesus; 3 The reality of what was taking place; 4 How all this was accomplished, that is, what God our Father did and what Jesus did and why they did what they did, 6. How all this was necessary because of what we had done.

A. What Jesus Did. - *Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; (our infirmities)*

1. He has carried away our sins, and has removed our sinful condition from us
  - a. Surely - a Hebrew word that speaks of strong affirmation
  - b. It tells us that we can have full confidence in what Jesus did for us.
  - c. He has carried our griefs, our sorrows, that is, He took them upon Himself

*1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree*

- d. As the scapegoat carried away the guilt of sin, even so our Lord has borne the burden of our sin.

*Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

- e. John the Baptist - Behold the Lamb of God - takes away the sin of the world.
- f. The words translated griefs and sorrows are Hebrew words for sickness - (refer back to Isa 1:4 Alas sinful nation" and then Isaiah goes on to give a description of their sinful state

*Isa 1:5-6 The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment.*

When Isaiah next uses the word "our" he is referring to the elect of the Old and New Testament alike. (our griefs, our sins) - *Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

B. How sinful man looks upon Jesus our Lord. - *yet we considered Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

1. Man's sinful reaction was to consider Jesus worthy of death
2. The "we" here refers to Israel in its sinful rebellion against God.
3. To be stricken is to be counted judicially guilty before God
4. The Sanhedrin saw Him rightfully judged guilty and worthy of death before God

*Matt 26:63-66 And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."*

5. They saw Him as one who had broken the Law of God

*John 19:7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."*

C. The reality of what was taking place - *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed*

1. Regardless of what the Jews thought He was not suffering for His sin, but because of our sins.
2. Wounded and beaten for our iniquities - It was our sins that nailed Him to the cross

Paul writes that He was "delivered up because of our offenses". Rom 4:25

3. He was chastened, He took our deserved punishment, that we might be reconciled to God, have peace with God

*Rom 5:1 ". . . having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ*  
*Rom 5:8 ". . . when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son"*

4. By His stripes, the beatings and punishment He took in our place - our sinful sick condition has been healed
5. We have been made whole, clean and pure before God because of what Jesus did for us in our place
6. By the scourging of the suffering servant we have been healed

CONCLUSION: Little wonder we can say - Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

Jesus did it all - He bore our grief our sorrows our sinful state

Men sinfully crucified our Lord thinking they were doing God's will and in a most strange sense they were.

*Acts 2:22-24 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death*

Truly God directs the affairs of all things for the good of His chosen ones.

And thus we see, because of what Jesus did, and because of how God in His providence has used the sinful acts of men we enjoy the following result:

The cleansing, the healing and the salvation of God's elect.

The suffering servant has indeed provided for us so great a salvation.